

Establishing A Forum For An Ad-Hoc Working Group To Discuss Issues Related To The Esopus Creek And Water Releases From The Gilboa Dam in Schoharie County, NY

The Environmental Committee (Chairman Shapiro and Legislators Bartels, Distel, R.A. Parete, Rodriguez, Fabiano and McAfee), Legislators Berardi, Bischoff, Cahill, Dart, Donaldson, Gregorius, Kraft, Liepmann, Lomita, Loughran, R.S. Parete, Provenzano, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, Terpening, Zimet and Legislators Aiello, Every, Fabiano and Roberti offer the following:

WHEREAS, the City of New York operates the Schoharie Reservoir, impounded by the Gilboa Dam on the Schoharie Creek in Schoharie County, New York, and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2005, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection issued a Public Advisory stating “Recent investigations reveal that safety factors associated with modern engineering practices are not met by the Dam in its present state,” and

WHEREAS, the Schoharie Reservoir must be drained by 16 feet to allow for dam repairs by diverting as much as 540 million gallons of water a day through the 17-mile Shandaken Tunnel, resulting in a higher flow for the Upper Esopus Creek, a constantly full Ashokan Reservoir, and downstream spillage into the Lower Esopus Creek creating higher water levels, and

WHEREAS, man-made and natural events that result in higher water levels are a cause of great concern for downstream Ulster County communities and municipalities along the Upper and Lower Esopus Creek, and

WHEREAS, the County of Ulster has sponsored three meetings since November 9, 2005, to discuss issues related to the Esopus Creek and water releases from the Gilboa Dam, and

WHEREAS, the County of Ulster could assist affected communities by establishing a forum where an ad-hoc working group of elected and civic officials from downstream communities could meet and discuss issues related to the Esopus Creek and water releases from the Gilboa Dam, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature will allow and grant permission for an ad-hoc working group of elected and civic officials from downstream communities of the Upper and Lower Esopus to regularly meet at the

Resolution No. 56 February 8, 2006

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Ulster County Office Building or other County offices to discuss issues related to the Esopus Creek and water releases from the Gilboa Dam,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 33 NOES: 0

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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